

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WP-2 AD HOC GROUP ON INCOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED LOOWING LETTER FROM ANDREA BOLTHO, HEAD OF GROWTH STUDIES DIVISION IN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS. IT SUMMARIZES CONCLUSIONS OF MEETING ON JUNE 13 OF WP-2 AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INCOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS:

"EXPERTS REPRESENTING NINE COUNTRIES DISCUSSES A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL POINTS ARISING FROM THE SECRETARIAT PAPER "INCOME MAINTENACE EXPENDITURE - AN INTERIM REPORTS" (CPE/WP2(75)1). NUMEROUS DETAILED AND HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE WHICH THE SECRETARIAT WILL INCORPORATE INTO THE FINAL VERSION OF THE PAPER. IN ADDITION, THE MEETING EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(I) THE PRESENT TEXT DID NOT ALLOW SUFFICIENTLY FOR THE DIVERSITY OF COUNTRIES' PRACTICES IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY
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FIELD AND, IN SOME INSTANCES, VENTURED UNWARRANTED COMPARISONS;

MORE QUALIFICATIONS AND A GREATER ATTENTION TO COUNTRIES' INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICES WERE THEREFORE REQUIRED;

(II) THE CONCEPT OF A RELATIVE POVERTY LINE WAS ACCEPTED BUT IT WAS FELT THAT THIS LINE SHOULD BE RELATED TO DISPOSABLE INCOME RATHER THAN GDP PAR HEAD; MORE GENERALLY, THE SECRETARIAT'S TREATMENT OF POVERTY WOULD BENEFIT FROM A MORE THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THE METHODOLOGY USED;

(III) PARTLY TO BROADEN THE DISCUSSION OF POVERTY TO THAT OF INEQUALITY, IT WAS FELT THAT AN ANNEX PROVIDING THE STANDARDISED DATA ON INCOME DISTRIBUTION ALREADY COLLECTED BY THE SECRETARIAT WOULD BE USEFUL;

(IV) THE RANGE OF FIGURES SHOWN IN THE CHAPTER ON PROJECTIONS WAS NOT CONSIDERED UNREASONABLE, THOUGH SEVERAL DELEGATES FELT THAT SOMEWHAT LESS AMBITIOUS ASSUMPTIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE REALISTIC.

THE EXPERTS PRESENT AGREED TO PROVIDE THE SECRETARIAT, BY MID-JULY, NOT ONLY THE LATEST DATE BUT ALSO ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION ON PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES LIKELY TO MODIFY THE COMPARISONS DRAWN IN THE DOCUMENT (E.G., PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS, BENEFITS IN KIND, TAX AIDS, ETC.).

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